

Amendment to the Claims

1.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube comprising ~~the steps of:~~
inserting a mandrel into ~~an~~ a blank tube in ~~the~~ a form of a welded tube;
applying a parallel swaging operation by means of a die so as to cause ~~said~~ the
blank tube to contact tightly with ~~said~~ the mandrel;
subsequently withdrawing ~~said~~ the die from the blank tube, while keeping ~~said~~ the
mandrel ~~to remain~~ in the blank tube; and
moving a push-die to the blank tube from a radially outward position to flatten a weld
portion on the blank tube in cooperation with ~~said~~ the mandrel.

2.(Original) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the parallel
swaging operation is performed by means of the die after the insertion of the mandrel.

3.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 2, wherein a
tapered surface is formed at ~~the~~ an inner edge of ~~the~~ a tip end of the blank tube through a
cooperative action between the mandrel and the die.

4.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 2, wherein a
reduced thickness portion is formed at ~~the~~ a tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative
action between the mandrel and the die, so that ~~said~~ the reduced thickness portion can be
used as a bent piece extending in a radially inward direction.

5.(Currently Amended) A method of working a tube in accordance with Claim 3, wherein a reduced thickness portion is formed at the tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the die so that ~~said the~~ reduced thickness portion can be used as a bent piece extending in a radially inward direction.

6.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ die is a cylindrical die and a relief portion is formed in the ~~the an~~ inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, ~~said and the~~ relief portion ~~having~~ has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

7.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ die is a cylindrical die and a relief portion is formed in the ~~the an~~ inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, ~~said and the~~ relief portion ~~having~~ has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

8.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 3, wherein ~~said the~~ die is a cylindrical die and a relief portion is formed in the ~~the an~~ inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, ~~said and the~~ relief portion ~~having~~ has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

9.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 4, wherein ~~said the~~ die is a cylindrical die and a relief portion is formed in the ~~the an~~ inner surface of the

cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, ~~said and the~~ relief portion ~~having~~ has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

10.(Currently Amended) A method for working a tube in accordance with Claim 5, wherein ~~said the~~ die is a cylindrical die and a relief portion is formed in ~~the an~~ inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, ~~said and the~~ relief portion ~~having~~ has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

11.(Currently Amended) An apparatus for working a tube, said apparatus comprising a parallel swaging machine and a push-die, said parallel swaging machine including a clamp for supporting a blank tube, a mandrel insertable into ~~said the~~ blank tube when supported on the clamp, and a die ~~which that~~ translates along the blank tube when supported on said clamp, and
____ said push-die being mounted on said parallel swaging machine so that it moves toward ~~said the~~ blank tube from a ~~radially~~ radially outward position and away from the blank tube.

12.(Currently Amended) An apparatus for working a tube in accordance with Claim 11, wherein a forming surface is provided on said mandrel for forming ~~the a~~ tip end of the blank tube to have a thickness that is less than ~~a predetermined tube wall~~ an adjacent wall portion of the blank tube.